



**2013 WOMEN VETERANS  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**CALVET**  
WOMEN VETERANS



SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2013  
MARRIOTT MISSION VALLEY | SAN DIEGO, CA

## **2013 CalVet Women Veteran Awardees**

This year's nominees for the CalVet Women Veterans Conference awards featured many amazing and dedicated women. After careful deliberation, the Conference Awards Committee selected the following women for their community involvement, leadership and positive influence in the veteran community.

### **2013 Woman Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award Winner: Victoria Hudson**

- Award winning author and civil rights advocate, most notably for the equality of rights for the LGBT community
- 33 years of Army Reserve service
  - Military Police Platoon Leader
  - Military Intelligence CEWI Company Executive Officer
  - Commander for the Army Reserve Troop Program Unit
  - Instructor and Small Group Leader at the U.S. Army Military Police School
  - Dislocated Civilians Team Chief
  - Military Police Battalion Commander
- 5 deployments: Operation Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Joint Endeavor, and Iraqi Freedom
- Awarded the Barry Winchell Courage Award for her dedicated efforts in challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act.
- Awarded Veteran of the Year 2012 by Assembly member Mary Hayashi(D-Hayward), 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

### **2013 California Woman Veteran Leader of the Year: Kate Weber**

- Served in the U.S. Army
- Activist against Sexual Assault in the Military
  - Featured speaker at over 100 events discussing sexual assault in the military over the past 6 years
  - Collaborated with civilian and military leaders to develop effective training modules for active duty personnel
  - Educated active duty military about rape and Military Sexual Trauma at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and Beale Air Force Base. Kate's presentation resulted in a serious review of previous and current cases of sexual assaults at JBLM
- Developed the Tri-County Veterans' Collaborative in Sonoma County, the first in her area, to provide services and resources for veterans, such as peer support groups and assistance with VA disability claims



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- Gave inspirational speeches about her experience in the military at statewide screenings of the documentary, *The Invisible War*, including the national conference for the National Association of the Commissions on the Status of Women and Girls

**2013 California Outstanding Volunteer Award in Service to Women Veterans: Mary Ellen Salzano**

- Founder and Facilitator of the California Statewide Collaborative for Our Military, Families. The collaborative partners with CalVet to facilitate monthly phone calls, fosters discussions about the most important issues affecting veterans and brings new leaders and service providers into community discussions
- Co-creator of Creating Collaborative Communities Summit for Military and Veterans, December 2012. The summit brought together over 100 service providers, community leaders and veterans to discuss ways to improve community cooperation
- Mary Ellen was an invaluable member of the planning committee for the 2012 CalVet Women Veterans Leadership Conference.
- Contributor to the California response to the 2014 VA Women Veterans Healthcare Survey
- Mary Ellen has been dedicated to veteran and military family issues for a decade and demonstrates a deep commitment and passion for this work each day